

Options for NCEA Level 1 Science

The Ministry of Education is seeking further feedback on NCEA Level 1 Science following feedback on the products we tested through Trial & Pilots early in 2020. Two alternative options for NCEA Level 1 Science (alongside Agricultural and Horticultural Science) have been developed, based on the education sector's initial feedback.

These further options were developed to reflect Cabinet's agreed vision for NCEA, of Level 1 refocused to support a broad, foundational education while Levels 2 and 3 promote opportunities for greater specialisation. The goal of these changes is to ensure every student gets fair and equal access to the full range of possible quality pathways through NCEA and beyond.

Subject Associations, teachers, students and the wider community are encouraged to [provide feedback](#) on these two options and the original proposal to have a single Science subject at Level 1 by 10 August 2020. Feedback on these three options will inform future decisions around NCEA Level 1 Science:

Option A: One General Science subject with four standards at Level 1 (as included in the Provisional Subject List for NCEA Level 1)

Based on the work of the Science Subject Expert Group in the Trial and Pilot process, this broadly consists of:

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Internally assessed standards</u>		<u>Externally assessed standards</u>	
Science	Nature of Science	Nature of Science	Nature of Science	Nature of Science
<i>All standards cover all four contextual strands: Material World, Living World, Physical World and Planet Earth and Beyond.</i>				

Option B: One General Science subject plus two specialised Science subjects at Level 1 (12 standards in total)

This option would continue with the Nature of Science-focused General Science, but would also add two further subjects of four standards, each composed of two of the contextual strands. This would likely include two standards from each strand, one internally and one externally assessed.

While divided into subjects, courses can still be developed using standards from across the subjects, including the Nature of Science Standards. Each science learning area has 50% internal and 50% external assessment, consistent with the NCEA change proposal.

An example of these subjects would be:

<u><i>Subject</i></u>	<u><i>Internally assessed standards</i></u>		<u><i>Externally assessed standards</i></u>	
<i>General Science</i>	Nature of Science	Nature of Science	Nature of Science	Nature of Science
<i>Physical Science</i>	Physical World (Physics)	Material World (Chemistry)	Physical World (Physics)	Material World (Chemistry)
<i>Natural Science</i>	Living World (Biology)	Planet Earth & Beyond (Earth and Space Science)	Living World (Biology)	Planet Earth & Beyond (Earth and Space Science)

Option C - One General Science Subject plus four specialised Science Subjects at Level 1 (20 standards in total)

This option also maintains the Nature of Science-focused General Science course, but includes a specific subject for each of the contextual strands. A specific subject could be used to assess a course, or standards from across subjects could be used. The approach of 50% internal and 50% external assessment would apply.

An example of these subjects would be:

<u><i>Subject</i></u>	<u><i>Internally assessed standards</i></u>		<u><i>Externally assessed standards</i></u>	
<i>General Science</i>	Nature of Science	Nature of Science	Nature of Science	Nature of Science
<i>Physics</i>	Physical World (Physics)	Physical World (Physics)	Physical World (Physics)	Physical World (Physics)
<i>Biology</i>	Living World (Biology)	Living World (Biology)	Living World (Biology)	Living World (Biology)
<i>Earth and Space Science</i>	Planet Earth & Beyond (Earth and Space Science)	Planet Earth & Beyond (Earth and Space Science)	Planet Earth & Beyond (Earth and Space Science)	Planet Earth & Beyond (Earth and Space Science)
<i>Chemistry</i>	Material World (Chemistry)	Material World (Chemistry)	Material World (Chemistry)	Material World (Chemistry)

The Ministry has also put on hold further development work on draft teaching, learning and assessment resources and achievement standards for Level 1 Science until final decisions are made on Level 1 Science. This will enable the Ministry to receive feedback on the options for Level 1 Science, and provide the Subject Expert Group with clear guidance on which other subjects will be available within the Science Learning Area at NCEA Level 1 before resuming development work.

Public engagement on the [Provisional Subject List for NCEA Level 1](#) is still ongoing and will close on 20 July.